

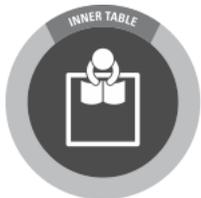
# Sermon Notes

Cross Examination  
November 25, 2018

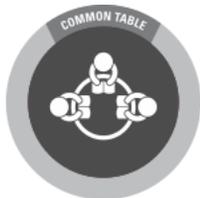


# Sermon Notes

Cross Examination  
November 25, 2018



*Seeking God*  
in Solitude



*Finding God*  
in Friendship



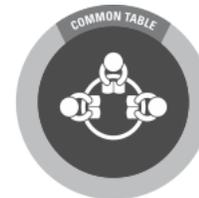
*Celebrating God*  
in Community



*Reflecting God*  
in Relationships



*Seeking God*  
in Solitude



*Finding God*  
in Friendship



*Celebrating God*  
in Community



*Reflecting God*  
in Relationships

## Reflection Questions *(please use these individually or in groups)*

### Sermon Questions:

1. Is there anything you are doing in your life that is really just to make a good impression? Do you have loyalty to a person or group that asks for your sacrifice only to tout their own greatness?
2. Is the cross of Jesus something you can "boast" in? Could you describe the beauty and power within the suffering of the cross to another person? Have you allowed the cross to disrupt and redefine your relationship with the world?
3. Pray for those in the world who are suffering most deeply because of their identification with the crucified and risen Jesus.
4. Ask God to reveal to you what kind of "new creation" He is up to in the world that you can participate in with him and fellow Christians.

### Additional Questions:

1. List three things that, at one time, were important to your identity, but that you had to set aside in obedience to life in Christ.
2. Do you feel all new converts to Christianity need to look exactly like what you're grown accustomed to in your faith experience? Are there secondary things you feel people should "cut out" to "fit in?"

## Devotional Reading & Inward Reflection

**Romans 8:1-17** | What does this passage teach us about the conflict/contrast between spirit and flesh? Are there particular times/situations in life in which you feel this conflict more intensely?

**2 Corinthians 5:14-21** | How does this passage compliment the idea of the Cross changing our perspective? What does it mean, in day-to-day life, to be a minister of reconciliation?

## Self-Care Disciplines

### November Discipline: Fasting | Convenience Fast

Fasting is an excellent spiritual practice to determine the areas in our lives where we have too much excess. In our current cultural climate, we have been conditioned to become consumers, and to live without "margins" in our lives. Margins are those spaces where we have nothing planned and have time in between stuff or at the beginning and ending of each day. Jesus models the ideas of rest and margin in his life, and it is an example we should follow.

This week, we are going to focus on fasting from convenience. Make an effort to do things in ways that require *more* time or effort instead of less. Avoid drive thru options. Skip the speedy check out. Send a note of encouragement instead of a text. Drive the "long way" to a destination. Use the sink instead of the dishwasher. Ask God to teach you about how you might need to grow in patience this week.

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